

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AGR-20 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 H-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 STR-08 CEA-02

SAM-01 SPC-03 NSC-10 DRC-01 SS-20 /108 W

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R 121717Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2107

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 0849

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD EAGR

SUBJECT: SUGAR: APPROACH TO GOG

REF: STATE 022675

1. MINISTER OF ECONOMY MOLINA MENCOS ASSURED AGATT THAT GUATEMALA INTENDS TO FULFILL 1974 QUOTA TO U.S. BOTH MINISTER AND NATIONAL SUGAR PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT U.S. WANTS EARLY SHIPMENTS AND CONGRESS WILL BE WATCHING DELIVERY PERFORMANCE.

2. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 31, MINISTRY OF ECONOMY ISSUED RESOLUTION NO. 5 ESTABLISHING 1973-74 SUGAR GOALS AT 285,000 SHORT TONS. OF THIS TOTAL, WHICH WILL BE REVIEWED MARCH 31, 175,000 ST IS FOR INTERNAL CONSUMPTION, 22,500 ST FOR DOMESTIC RESERVE, 80,000 ST FOR EXPORT TO U.S. AND WORLD MARKETS, AND 7,500 ST TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

3. MOLINA MENCOS SAID DOMESTIC MARKET HAS FIRST PRIORITY AND U.S. NEXT. POSSIBLY THERE WILL BE MORE THAN 80,000 TONS AVAILABLE TO U.S., HE SAID.

4. RESOLUTION SAYS MILLS MUST PROVE THEY HAVE FIRST PRODUCED ASSIGNED VOLUMES FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION AND RESERVE BEFORE THEY WILL BE PERMITTED TO EXPORT SUGAR.

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MOLINA MENCOS SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THIS WORDING WAS

NOT PRECISE, IT MEANS THAT WHEN LOCAL MILLS PRODUCE
CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF THEIR DOMESTIC SUGAR QUOTA THEY MAY
THEN EXPORT SAME PERCENTAGE TO U.S.

5. SUGAR ASSOCIATION SPOKESMAN SAID DECISION NOT YET MADE
ON WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED
OFFERINGS FROM U.S. OR TO COVER QUOTA FIRST. HE SAID LARGE
MILLS PRESSING TO MAKE SIZABLE SHIPMENT TO U.S. BEFORE
MARCH 31. ALSO SAID CY 1973 EXPORTS OF 143,510 ST (68,209 TO
U.S., 75,301 TO OTHER) PROBABLY WILL BE MATCHED OR BETTERED IN
1974.
MELOY

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